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NOTES ON THE "PROGRAM OF SKIN AND VENEREAL DISEASES
FOR THE FACULTIES OF MEDICAL INSTITUTES"

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[A Digest]

The new scientific program for faculties of medical institutes promulgated in Medgiz publications was received in October 1948.

The program is characterized by its abstract treatment of many sections and objectives. Dermatology and venereology are insufficiently treated. The section on the former, "The History of the Development of Dermatology," gives only six stages in its development. Information on the Russian school of dermatology is insufficient.

The names of only eight Russian and Soviet dermatologists are mentioned. Many who have enriched the world's knowledge in this field, such as A. A. Bogolepov, S. L. Bogrov, I. F. Zelenev, A. I. Lebedev, P. V. Nikol'skiy, M. I. Stukovenkov, and N. A. Chernogubov, are omitted.

On the whole, the classifications are too general. With the victory of the Michurin doctrine, more precise information should be given on the influence of environment on dermatology.

In discussing the history of venereal disease, the program should point out the differences in past problems between capitalist countries and the Soviet Union. It should stress the impossibility of eliminating such diseases in bourgeois countries and point with pride to the great progress made against these diseases in the Soviet Union. Such data would be of definite value for classrooms and lectures.

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The same lack of ideological orientation is evident in other sections (pyodermitosis, dermatozoonosis, fungoid diseases). The program is non-political even in the section, "Occupational Skin Diseases." Nothing in the program brings out the changes in Soviet pathology of large-scale skin and venereal diseases and its successes in controlling them as compared with those of capitalist countries.

The program should mention the works and names of great scientists in all these fields, such as: P. F. Borovskiy, S. L. Bogrov, P. V. Kozhevnikov, N. I. Latyshev, Ye. F. Pavlovskiy, etc. (Pandinaki ulcer); M. P. Dem'yanchovich (mange); A. A. Bogolepov, P. S. Grigor'yev, R. R. Gel'tser, V. M. Aristovskiy, and A. Ya. Vilenchuk (cause of syphilis); I. I. Mechnikov, D. K. Zabolotnyy, M. A. Chlenov, P. S. Grigor'yev, S. Ye. Gorbovitskiy, and S. T. Pavlov (experimental syphilis); and O. V. Petersen, Ist'manov, and Akopyants (chancreoid).

This criticism has taken up only a few main points, but they should suffice to show that the sections on skin and venereal diseases are unsatisfactory and need immediate revision.

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